

MINUTES
MALIBU CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2003
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kearsley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Mayor Ken Kearsley, Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Barovsky, Councilmembers Joan House, Jeffrey Jennings and Andrew Stern

ALSO PRESENT: Katie Lichtig, City Manager; Christi Hogin, City Attorney; Claudio Sanchez, Acting City Engineer; Richard Calvin, Maintenance Manager; Walter Okitsu, Consulting Traffic Engineer from Katz Okitsu; and Lisa Pope, City Clerk

FLAG SALUTE

Efrom Fader led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Councilmember Stern moved and Mayor Pro Tem Barovsky seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Pope reported that the agenda for the meeting was posted on August 29, 2003.

ITEM 1A PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Mazza reported the passing of Cecile Smith, Point Dume resident.

ITEM 1B COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2 OLD BUSINESS

A. Civic Center Way Pilot Project

Staff recommendation: Review the report and accept public comments on the Civic Center Way pilot project.

Acting City Engineer Sanchez presented the staff report.

Councilmember House requested input from the public safety agencies.

Assistant Fire Chief Lee expressed concern regarding response time. He requested a dedicated lane be made available for fire equipment.

Maintenance Manager Calvin discussed the lock on the School District property and Fire Department access.

Assistant Fire Chief Lee stated it was necessary to have access available in emergencies.

In response to Councilmember House, Lt. Gressman stated the Sheriff's Department would provide input after the 6-month pilot project. She stated traffic has been impacted. She also indicated emergency access would be hindered.

City Manager Lichtig discussed traffic at the school and observations that morning traffic was awful but afternoon traffic flowed more smoothly.

Maintenance Manager Calvin discussed the morning traffic at the school. He stated the afternoon flow was working well.

Councilmember House asked if emergency access would be provided in a permanent project. Maintenance Manager Calvin stated it would be determined in the design phase.

Gunter Hagen expressed concern about public safety in the Winter Canyon area and Bluffs Park. He discussed backup caused at Webb Way. He expressed concern regarding environmental safety. He debated the statement that there was no fiscal impact. He requested an environmental report to determine problems. He questioned whether it was legal for the City to take over the road.

William Winokur stated the road closure was not an issue of child safety. He discussed the safety of children at Our Lady of Malibu. He discussed traffic congestion on Malibu Canyon Road. He implored the Council to reopen the road but suggested specific hours of closure or installation of a traffic signal.

Rod Bergen stated there was not a problem with the road prior to the pilot project. He suggested the Malibu Canyon entrance to Pepperdine be closed off or installation of a traffic signal at Winter Canyon and Civic Center Way. He suggested reopening the road and conducting public hearings.

Paul Grisante suggested opening the road, installing a traffic signal at Winter Canyon and Civic Center Way, and closing the free right turn lane at Civic Center Way and Malibu Canyon.

Robert Linde addressed the Council in opposition to the road closure. He asked who was responsible for instituting the pilot project.

Jim Rapf stated he had never seen an accident or incident at Webster Elementary School. He indicated support for the left turn restriction from Malibu Canyon onto Civic Center Way. He stated he was a business owner in the Civic Center area and had not felt the effects of the road closure. He questioned the City Council's right to close a public street. He asked what would happen in an emergency situation.

Joe Seinfeld indicated he lived on Civic Center Way. He discussed safety issues with ingress and egress onto Civic Center Way. He stated he did not want the road closed rather a different solution be found.

Chris Frost discussed emails and petition signatures from people wanting the road reopened. He discussed impacts to residents and business owners. He expressed concern regarding access for emergency vehicles. He stated there was no public notice, no info to residents and businesses, former public works director and traffic engineer said it was a bad idea to close the road and an environmental impact report was necessary.

James May stated the pilot project was a "brute force approach to solving a manageable problem." He suggested northbound traffic be restricted on Civic Center Way similar to the left turn restriction from Malibu Canyon Road onto Civic Center Way. He suggested a traffic signal be installed.

Anne Marie Crotty, Malibu Chamber of Commerce, indicated opposition to the road closure.

Paul Joseph stated the residents have no voice in the process. He discussed emergency response time. He urged the Council to decide to remove the barricade.

Trudi Reynolds discussed the increased travel time since the inception of the pilot project.

Jefferson Wagner, Malibu Pier LLC, addressed the Council in opposition to the road closure due to impact to shuttle service from Pepperdine and the Valley to Pier.

Ryan Embree stated the idea came about in 1995 by former Public Works Director John Clement. He stated the problem was the tremendous amount of traffic on Pacific Coast Highway. He suggested the Malibu Canyon Road and Webb Way signals be coordinated. He urged the Council to put the pressure on to have traffic issues corrected on Pacific Coast Highway.

Jim Musante asked how the City could take over a State Highway and close it down. Mayor Kearsley indicated it was not a State Highway rather owned by the City.

Georgianna McBurney discussed the growth of the City and schools. She discussed traffic on Pacific Coast Highway. She applauded the Council's courage. She urged the Council to continue the pilot project until a permanent solution was determined. She suggested a blue ribbon committee be established to come up with creative solutions.

Mayor Pro Tem Barovsky stated she was responsible for the pilot project based on a meeting with residents of Civic Center Way and personal experience of the egress problem. She also indicated that egress from the Knolls was a problem. She stated the special meeting was called to hear the public and find a solution. She indicated support for establishment of a committee to come up with a solution. She stated she would be voting to remove the barricades.

Councilmember Stern stated the Council was hearing the public's concerns at this special meeting. He explained that the Council had tried to correct a problem. He indicated support for a blue ribbon committee. He stated he would vote to remove the barricades but it was necessary to determine how to solve the problem.

In response to Councilmember House, City Manager Lichtig discussed incidents that had occurred since the beginning of the pilot project including 2-3 mechanical problems with signals on Pacific Coast Highway and traffic accidents, unrelated to the closure. Maintenance Manager Calvin stated there was no doubt that closing Civic Center Way impacted traffic.

Councilmember House discussed Malibu Canyon prior to it extending to Pacific Coast Highway. She stated an environmental review would be conducted after the pilot project. She stated the City had the right to close Civic Center Way. She stated emergency access would be provided after the trial period. She discussed public notice regarding the pilot project. She encouraged the newspapers to publish upcoming Council items. She stated she would endorse a blue ribbon committee to assist in a solution for slowing down traffic.

Councilmember Jennings stated the Council was trying to address z-traffic, the inability to get in and out of condos, and ingress and egress of the Knolls. He explained that the signals at Cross Creek, Civic Center Way and Malibu Canyon Road went out at the same time the barricades were installed. He expressed concern regarding emergency access. He requested Chris Frost participate on the blue ribbon committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Barovsky invited the community members to apply to serve on the committee.

Mayor Kearsley discussed commuter traffic through Malibu. He indicated support for a blue ribbon committee and removal of the barricades.

MOTION Councilmember Stern moved to end the Civic Center Way Pilot Project as soon as possible and to establish a blue ribbon committee to look into the situation and come back to Council with solutions.

Mayor Pro Tem Barovsky requested applications be posted on the web site or made available at City Hall.

City Attorney Hogin suggested staff prepare an item for the Council meeting of September 22, 2003 outlining parameters for the Civic Center Way Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Barovsky seconded the motion.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Stern thanked staff for their hard work on the pilot project.

ADJOURN At 7:57 p.m., Councilmember Stern moved and Mayor Kearsley seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the City Council of
the City of Malibu on September 22, 2003.

KENNETH KEARSLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)